

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06 FEAE-00 ERDA-05

/111 W

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R 121355Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9553

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 0280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, BR

SUBJECT: URENCO ENRICHED URANIUM FOR BRAZIL

REF. (A) 76 BRASILIA 8134, (B) 75 BONN 10938

1. SUMMARY. BRITISH EMBOFF IN BRAZIL PREDICTS THAT HMG WILL NOT OPPOSE THE SALE OF URENCO FUEL TO BRAZIL, ALTHOUGH HMG WILL REQUIRE A SEPARATE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH THE GOB. IF FOR SOME REASON URENCO FUEL BECOMES UNAVAILABLE, THE EMBASSY EXPECTS THE GOB TO PRESS THE FRG TO FIND IT ELSEWHERE. END. SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO A BRITISH EMBOFF IN BRASILIA, HIS EMBASSY HAS INFORMED THE GOB THAT THE THREE URENCO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

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WILL NEED TIME TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF URENCO FUEL FOR ANGRA II AND III. THE GOB RESPONDED ONLY BY SAYING IT HOPED THE DELAY WOULD NOT TAKE TOO LONG. HMG, THE EMBOFF SAID, WOULD REQUIRE A SEPARATE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH THE GOB FOR URENCO FUEL -- HMG WOULD NOT RELY SIMPLY ON THE FRG/GOB/IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT.

3. EMBOFF PREDICTED THAT HMG WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE URENCO SALE, FOR THREE REASONS: (A) CONSIDERING THE PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, POLITICIANS IN BRITAIN WOULD NOT CHOOSE TO SACRIFICE A CONTRACT THAT SUPPLIED JOBS; (B) THE ISSUES OF PROLIFERATION AND OF THE BRAZILIAN-GERMAN AGREEMENT HAVE NOT AROUSED BRITISH PUBLIC AND PRESS CONCERN TO THE SAME EXTENT AS IN THE US, THE NETHERLANDS, AND CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES; AND (C) A URENCO TURNDMYN WOULD GIVE ADDED IMPETUS TO THE BRAZILIANS TO BUILD A DOMESTIC ENRICHMENT FACILITY, THUS "DEFEATING OUR (READ HMG AND USG) NONPROLIFERATION AIMS." THE EMBOFF JUDGED THAT THE DUTCH WOULD ULTIMATELY GO ALONG WITH URENCO FUEL FOR BRAZIL FOR EMPLOYMENT REASONS.

4. COMMENT. SINCE REFTEL REPORT, HMG APPARENTLY HAS DECIDED TO REQUIRE A SEPARATE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH THE GOB.

5. FROM PRESS REPORTS AND OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE, IT IS UNCLEAR TO US WHETHER DUTCH OPPOSITION TO THE SUPPLY OF URENCO FUEL TO BRAZIL WOULD PREVENT WEST GERMANY FROM SUPPLYING URENCO FUEL. IF FOR SOME REASON URENCO FUEL BECOMES UNAVAILABLE, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE THE GOB PUT PRESSURE (PERHAPS EVEN IN PUBLIC) ON THE FRG TO OBTAIN ELSEWHERE. BASED ON SECTION 3 OF ANNEX 2 TO THE IMPLEMENTING "DECLARATION" ACCOMPANYING THE FRG-GOB AGREEMENT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRG'S COMMITMENT TO OBTAIN ENRICHED URANIUM EXTENDS ONLY TO URENCO, "IN CASE THERE IS AN UNFORESEEN SHORTAGE FROM THE REGULAR

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SUPPLIER" (I.E., THE US). (REF B, PARA 7, SUMMARIZED THIS.) THERE IS NO MENTION OF SOURCES ALTERNATIVE TO URENCO, E.G., THE SOVIETS, WHO, AT LEAST UNTIL MID-1976, SEEMED INTERESTED IN SELLING ENRICHED URANIUM TO BRAZIL, ACCORDING TO WHAT OUR BRAZILIAN INTERLOCUTORS HAVE TOLD US.
CRIMMINS

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